

ASSEMBLYMEMBER MERVYN M. DYMALLY

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**DYMALLY'S BILLS TO ADDRESS
CRACK COCAINE SENTENCING, HIV PRISONER TESTING,
THREE STRIKES REFORM AND MORE**

The Legislature's Dean Has Introduced 43 Measures This Session



SACRAMENTO – Of the 1,705 Assembly Bills that were introduced before the February 23, 2007 legislative deadline, Assemblymember Mervyn M. Dymally (D-Compton) has authored 37 of them. Nicknamed the *Dean of the Legislature*, Dymally is off and running with goals ranging from creating a universal children's healthcare system to equalizing the criminal penalties for crack cocaine with that of powder cocaine to reforming the "three strikes law." Constituents wishing to comment on bills are encouraged to visit www.leginfo.ca.gov. September 14, 2007 is the deadline for bills to be passed.

Highlights from Dymally's 2007-08 Legislative Package include:

AB 1 – California Healthy Children Insurance Program

AB 1 would simplify requirements for families with limited incomes to obtain health care for their children. This bill seeks to close the holes by coordinating the work of the Medi-Cal program which is administered by the State Department of Health Care Services, county welfare agencies, the Healthy Families Program, which is administered by the Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board, and by streamlining the qualification process. [See full bill text.](#)

AB 53 – Dymally's Universal Health Care Initiative

AB 53 would provide universal health care coverage to all Californians, regardless of age, income, employment, or health status. [See full bill text.](#)

AB 66 – Inmate HIV Testing

AB 66 requires HIV/AIDS testing for all state prison inmates entering a correctional facility for incarceration for a period of at least one year. The bill requires testing between 30 and 60 days after entry into and between 30 and 60 days prior to the expected discharge from the facility. AB 66 also requires that if the inmate test results for HIV/AIDS are positive that the Chief Medical Officer shall notify the inmate's parole officer. Furthermore, AB 66 requires the Secretary of Corrections and Rehabilitation and the Director of the State Department of Mental Health to report annually to the Director of the State Department of Health care Services and the Legislature on the prevalence of positive HIV tests. [See full bill text.](#)

AB 71 – Minimum Wage

This bill would provide an automatic adjustment of the minimum wage on January 1 of each year that would be calculated by multiplying the minimum wage by the previous year's percentage of inflation. This bill would take effect in 2009. [See full bill text.](#)

AB 74 – Institute for the Phenomenon of Obesity and Diabetes Experimental Research

AB 74 requests the University of California to establish and administer an Institute for the Phenomenon of Obesity and Diabetes Experimental Research (PODER) at the University of California, Irvine, in coordination with the Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science, to promote and conduct basic science research on obesity and diabetes. [See full bill text.](#)

AB 128 – Gang Alternative Education Program

AB 128 requires the State Department of Education and the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to jointly establish an experimental pilot program to be called the Gang Alternative Education Program that will provide gang alternative education, counseling, and support services to students grades 4 through 7 in the Compton Unified School District, the Inglewood Unified School District, and the Oakland Unified School District through 2012. [See full bill text.](#)

AB 311 – Senior Hearing Aids

AB 311 would allow over the counter purchasing of hearing aids by seniors, therefore reducing the cost of hearing aids by as much as 75%. [See full bill text.](#)

AB 337 – Crack vs. Powder Cocaine

AB 337 would eliminate the discriminatory criminal penalties for crack cocaine and equalize the penalties with powder cocaine. [See full bill text.](#)

AB 883 – Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program

Existing law created an Assumption Program of Loans for Education (APLE), administered by the Student Aid Commission. AB 883 would establish, within APLE, a pilot program for loan assumption for interns and teachers who are qualified for participation under APLE and who agree to teach full time at public

middle schools or public junior high schools in areas deemed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction to be "high priority neighborhoods." The bill would require the commission, in selecting participants for this pilot program, to grant priority to applicants who are concentrating in mathematics, science, or special education, or who agree to teach full time in a school ranked in decile 1, 2, 3, or 4 on the Academic Performance Index. The bill would authorize the assumption of up to \$3,000 of the loan for each year of qualifying teaching service, up to a maximum of \$12,000 of loan assumption for 4 consecutive years of qualifying teaching service. [See full bill text.](#)

AB 1133 – Three Strikes Reform

This bill would provide that if the current felony is not a serious or violent crime the person would be sentenced to the enhancement under the 3 strikes provisions that is applicable to a person with one prior conviction. These provisions would not apply if the current felony is a drug offense, a felony sex offense, involved the use of firearms or deadly weapons, or involved great bodily injury, or if any of the prior offenses was a sexually violent offense, were sex offenses involving a child, a homicide, or a serious or violent felony punishable by life imprisonment or death. AB 1133 is supported by Los Angeles District Attorney Steve Cooley. [See full bill text.](#)

In addition, Dymally has authored **Assembly Joint Resolution 1** ([AJR 1](#)) to call upon Congress to give Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science the status of being a Historically Black College/University.

To review Dymally's entire legislative package, please visit www.leginfo.ca.gov.

Assemblymember Mervyn M. Dymally represents the culturally diverse 52nd Assembly District which includes Compton, Watts, Willowbrook, Paramount, North Long Beach, and South Los Angeles. He is Chair of both the Assembly Health Committee and the Legislative Black Caucus.

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